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ORIGIN AND PROPAGATION OF FEBRILE DISEASES.

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It may be said that all fevers are owing to local irritation, arising from malposition of parts of the body, or the presence of foreign matter. Among the former may be enumerated protrusions of the viscera, distension of the extreme vessels, fractures, luxations, &c. Among the latter, pus and other excretions, necroses, poisons, animalculæ, vegetations, &c.

The present remarks have reference to two grand classes of fever—the remittent and eruptive.

The origin of the remittent class, which, as it is difficult to say whether or not the paroxysm altogether subsides, may also include the intermittent, has been usually ascribed to malaria or miasmata. Miasmata are generally considered to arise from the decomposition of animal or vegetable matter; and the effects on the constitution are said to be owing to inhalation of the gases generated by putrefactive fermentation. Although putrid matter applied to a wound may cause great constitutional disturbance, we have no facts to show that the emanations arising from it will occasion remittent fevers; for putrid macerations in colleges are often cleaned out in the hottest weather, without producing these diseases. In manufactories of adipocire, individuals have been surrounded with an atmosphere saturated with emanations from the decaying flesh of horses, dogs and other animals, yet they remain perfectly healthy. Quantities of hay and weeds are rotted every summer. Animal and vegetable manure in all stages of decomposition is often collected in heaps. The very same materials said to engender malaria are subjected to the same decomposing influences without producing febrile symptoms, and the hottest seasons are not always the most unhealthy.

Happily for mankind, the poison producing febrile diseases cannot be prepared by human skill, even when aided by the numerous discoveries of modern chemistry. Though the elements are in the hands of the chemist, he can effect no combination of inert matter, capable of exciting a periodic disease, or one giving rise to emanations by which its kind may be reproduced. If such preparations could be made by art, the fabulous accounts of slow poison might be realized, when the spirit of revenge or cupidity demanded a victim. The ravages of pestilence might not be stayed with the destruction of the intended object, but spread all around, as the torch of an incendiary often devastates more than he intended.

The poisons generated by vegetables and animals are not inferior in power to those formed by the combination or decomposition of inert matter. As far as I understand, no artificial preparation of the elementary bodies will produce abortion, yet the laboratory of nature furnishes secale. Art does not furnish a compound capable of contracting the voluntary muscles equal to nux vomica. Prussic acid is inferior in virulence to aconitina, the fiftieth part of a grain of which has produced serious effects. A small portion of virus in the saliva of a rabid dog, is, when applied to the mucous membrane of the mouth, or into a wound, capable of lying dormant for a time, and afterwards producing horrible effects. An almost inconceivable portion of virus contained in the matter from a vaccine or variolous pustule, produces fever and reproduction of the same kind of virus. Serpents, spiders, bees, gnats, &c., produce well-known effects.

By microscopical investigations, light has been thrown on two contagious diseases—porrigo and scabies. The former has been ascertained to be a vegetable which even sheds its seed. The irritation of the latter is occasioned by an animalcule which burrows beneath the skin. Parasites are sometimes transferred from one animal to another, as the falling out of portions of the whiskers and eyebrows is said to be owing to destruction of their roots by a parasite of the horse fly. Like other soils a particular state of the body seems to be necessary for the growth and propagation of parasites, for the animalculæ in the cheesy matter of acne punctata thrive best in a strumous subject.

Spurred rye is caused by a parasitical fungus, the dust on which will produce a similar affection in any grass, if sprinkled in the soil at the roots. This fungus, or rather the dust upon it, has proved poisonous not only to the mammalia, but even to leeches and flies, and has at different periods caused dangerous epidemics in different parts of Europe. Besides rye, many other grasses are subject to the alteration. It is probable that the species of fungus will vary with the plant, and that the variety will produce different effects—thus the dust from one kind of fungus or other parasite may produce yellow fever, from another cholera, and so on; or hybrids may be produced, giving rise to new diseases.

The powder diffused in the air on opening the common puff ball, is said to be myriads of its seeds, which wafted by the atmosphere, may pass to great distances. Many of these will light on barren soil, or at least on places unfavorable for their growth, while others, out of the abundance diffused, will find locations that will yield support, and where they may propagate their seed, to be again in like manner dispersed by the wind to seek new habitations. We may hourly inhale portions of these, or similar seeds, without being aware of their presence. The seeds of the plants which constitute mouldiness or mildew, require decomposing animal or vegetable matter as a soil in which they may grow, and reproduce their species. There is reason to believe they are constantly in the atmosphere, as neither paste nor soup can be long exposed to decomposition, without being covered with a miniature forest.

It is in autumn, when seeds of various kinds have passed to maturity, that fevers from malaria most frequently prevail. In dry or in very wet weather they are not often observed, but they appear after much rain, when the moisture has partially evaporated, and the vegetable matter been rendered favorable for mouldiness. Plantations of rice which requires much moisture for its growth, are considered so unhealthy that the Russian government has prohibited its cultivation.

In 1817 Savannah, as I am informed by a gentleman who formerly resided there, was as healthy as southern cities usually are, till the rice on a large plantation near it was cut. For some time before this the prevailing wind was the south west. Several days after the cutting of the rice, the wind changed to the north east, or from the rice field towards the city, and in a few days the yellow fever prevailed to an alarming extent.

As plants have their peculiar locations and do not survive the seasons of other latitudes, imported parasites may be propagated on whatever serves as a soil for mouldiness, till they are suddenly blighted by the appearance of frost. The poison of yellow fever gradually extends from the part where it was first introduced, and, to use the language of the contagionists, creeps from spot to spot, and increases the extent of the infected district. On the other hand, the poison of typhus, one of the exanthemata, does not survive the heat of a tropical region.

The cause of various other affections has been ascribed to animalculæ, and from what has been ascertained about itch, there is ground for the opinion. Animalculæ have been dried, and kept for a series of years, and have again exhibited all the phenomena of life after being immersed in water. Their ova may lie in dust, and be diffused through the atmosphere, until they are placed in circumstances favorable for their development. It is possible that in this way some of the exanthemata may be disseminated. The plants or animalculæ producing them, or their seeds or ova, may be contained in the albuminous crusts, which occasion the disease by contact, or when dried and distributed throughout the atmosphere by being inhaled. Their seeds or ova may also be put forth with the air, from the eruptions on the lining membrane of the lungs.

There may be something more than mere figurative language when we talk of the seeds of disease, and of the periods of germination or incubation. The seeds or ova of eruptive diseases may pass through the food or air passages to the circulatory system, and be deposited beneath the cuticle. After a period of germination or incubation they are more speedily developed on the parts most exposed to air and light, and progress more slowly on the rest of the body. After an allotted time they reach maturity, and then die away, having previously yielded the means of propagating their kind. It is perhaps by limiting the quantity of seeds, or ova, that the complaint is milder when the matter of smallpox is inserted beneath the cuticle, than when it is received by the air passages. As plants are modified by cultivation in a different clime and soil, diseases are modified by passing through a different animal; thus, when ſmallpox prevails cows may take the diſeaſe, the products of which will occaſion a complaint that is rarely fatal, and which can be communicated only by planting, or direct contact to an abraded ſurface.

According to the theories advanced, moſt febrile diſeaſes are of two kinds. The one is occaſioned by irritation from the reception of poiſon from paraſites, away from the body; the other by irritation from paraſites in the ſkin. The one is propagated on bodies exterior to the perſon; the other is propagated upon it. Though the one is, ſtrictly ſpeaking, non-contagious, both are alike to be dreaded, for the ſeeds of peſtiferous fungi may take root on decompoſing matter, and ſoon by reproduction fill the air with poiſonous duſt. The ſeeds of the other may be diſſeminated in a ſimilar manner, to grow and be reproduced on the body. The euphonous terms koino miaſma and idio miaſma have been employed to diſtinguiſh contagion from the perſon, from that ariſing from infected air.

Paraſites, then, are the chief ſources of diſeaſe, and as we can only attribute the commencement of animal and vegetable life to creative power, it is inferred that theſe cauſes of mortality exiſted from time immemorial. Contagious diſeaſes have broken out among workmen engaged in the manufacture of chlorine, and all diſinfecting agents have been found ſo inefficient that we do not know they can be controlled by any known ſubſtance. Habits of ablution, which have been ſo often recommended, have been found by experience to be the beſt means of checking their propagation. To have a ſyſtem free from noxious paraſites, it is neceſſary to obſerve the utmoſt cleanlineſs. Cleanlineſs in the ſtreet, in the yard, and in the domeſtic animals. Cleanlineſs in the ceiling, the walls, and the floor. Cleanlineſs in the kitchen, the parlor, and the bed-room. Cleanlineſs in what we eat, what we drink, and what we put on. Cleanlineſs without the perſon, and cleanlineſs within it. As the weeds from an ill-conducted farm annoy an induſtrious neighborhood, it is a good rule to keep well to windward of a ſuſpicious-looking craft.

The larger inſects, as flies and worms, conſume the decompoſing matter on which noxious paraſites may take root, and if it abounds they become ſo annoying that its removal is demanded. The ſlumberer on an unclean bed is again and again reminded that its condition ſhould be examined, and unclean garments ſoon preſent their own memorialiſts. Burns, with the feelings of a poet, might utter his deteſtation at the uglineſs of one of them, but it required the philoſophic mind of Peter Pindar, who was educated a phyſician, to compoſe a poem in its praiſe. The little muſquito, with its buzzing noiſe and poiſoned bill, does its utmoſt to prevent approach to marſhy diſtricts, eſpecially in the evening. With indomitable courage and perſeverance it repeats its warnings, at the imminent riſk of its life, yet it may prevent remittent fever in another way. I have been informed by a medical friend, whoſe father made the obſervation, that thoſe who ſlept under muſquito netting eſcaped the diſeaſe, and hence concluded that the inſects were uſeful in forcing its adoption. The poiſonous ſeeds being intercepted by the netting, leave the atmoſphere within it comparatively pure. It is poſſible that by falling on the aqueous vesicles constituting mist, the dust of malaria may be inhaled in a more concentrated form, by exposure after sunset.

When animal or vegetable parasites are introduced to a rural district, other parasites are apt to accompany them. A like course is observed by the parasites constituting disease, for itch and the exanthemata have often their sequela. The seeds of porrigo are sometimes introduced with the virus of vaccinia.

Many vegetable poisons cease to exert a noxious influence, when the system is accustomed to their action. A drachm of tobacco has occasioned death when infused and administered as an enema for strangulated hernia, yet there there are numbers who by frequent practice chew several drachms a-day without apparent injury. It is well known that the cases are most fatal at the first appearance of an epidemic, and that Creoles are not so liable to be affected with fever as strangers.

ERYSIPELATOUS FEVER.

To Dr. Samuel G. Morton, Philadelphia.

Dear Sir,—In the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of October 30th, 1844, I find my letter to you respecting the "Grippe" or epidemic erysipelas. The variety of symptoms observed in the protracted forms of erysipelatous fever are analogous to the changing phases of acute and chronic rheumatism, and should be considered in regard to its mild and malignant types and with reference to its acute and chronic bearings upon the functions and the organs or tissues successively involved.

Patients having erysipelatous fever during gestation, escape fortunately, if miscarriages occur, in not more than one third of the cases, and of the fœtations numerous instances of malformation occur at every stage, while of those arriving at maturity fully one half die before the eighteenth month. Their gums and fauces become affected as if from scorbutic taint, the body is feverish, with frequent cold extremities, the lips are of scarlet color, red spots appear on the cheeks, hectic perspiration, slight cough and occasional wheezing attend, and spasmodic pain with tendency to constipation, soon succeeded by diarrhœa, now begin to indicate the sure approach of death. Some infants lose their hair and nails, others for a while have eruptions like St. Anthony's fire, leaving ulcerated points not unlike chickenpox, and if vaccination be employed extensive excoriations of the skin come on, which are slowly and with difficulty healed. During gestation the mother has sore throat and many successions of imperfect abscesses about the ears, her vision or hearing always more or less impaired, and usually the scalp and ends of the fingers and toes are painfully sensitive; the lower extremities especially suffer more than is common from tumefaction, and the patient manifests constant dread of whatever may agitate the nervous system. A patient for some months harassed by such symptoms, will generally about the third day after accouchment have chills succeeded by intensely hot dry skin, while the bones are described to be parched as if by burning bricks, the secretion of milk ceases, the tongue is pointed, red at the sides, furred, with a smooth red trace in the middle; the entire tongue is stiff and corded, and of conic form extending to its enlarged base or root. The fever often continuing with partial remissions ten, twenty, or even thirty days, induces suppressions and great tenderness of the abdominal muscles, which invites to preserving the knees in an upraised position, and after some days the muscles become so rigid the legs cannot be extended without such force as might extend limbs contracted by rheumatism. In such cases at first the bowels are torpid, while the stomach is highly irritable, the œsophagus is laboring under sub-acute fever, and across the larynx a painful choking sensation is felt; the toes and heels, as well as the fingers and scalp, are as sensitive and excite as much complaint as in gouty patients. Opiates with calomel, irritants, bran poultices with acids, the tepid bath and bleeding, are the usual remedies. The accoucheur, without the greatest precaution, will transfer this fever from one to other lying-in patients, and I have observed the nurse brought in to draw the breast *immediately affected*, and such wet-nurse will with invariable certainty communicate the same disease to as many infants as may only once suck her breast.

Infants contracting the disease often sneeze, and within a few hours the palatal structure is thickened and inspiration is soon performed with a wheezing, cat-like sound, and such infant will communicate the affection to every breast its saliva may come in contact with, unless the owner has before had this fever. A child having this affection *will not contract hooping cough*, and it is worthy of remark that after hooping cough is fully established the subject of it will not sneeze, or at least not in the active febrile stage. During the influence of erysipelatous fever upon a system the vaccine poison *cannot operate* as a *preventive* against small-pox; and measles are often so modified as to present white, delicate pustular eruptions, affording no protection against measles on some future occasion. Lues affections are rendered more virulent, and gonorrhœa is changed into what was once, by misnomer, called cicca-gonorrhœa.

In erysipelas the inguinal glands and the vesicular mucous surfaces do not suffer, while the mucous and serous surfaces, from the diaphragm upward, are chief seats of the malady. I have observed ash-colored indolent ulcers on the fingers, and leprous-looking scabies and carbuncles on various parts of the body, yield as if by charm to the careful application of a weak solution of creosote and the external use of sarsaparilla.

In the advanced stages of indurated glands and thickened membranes, the continued use of jalap and cream of tartar, or a cathartic of extract of colocynth, scammony, and an eighth or sixteenth grain of tartrate of antimony, with lime-juice baths, and an invigorating diet, are of the highest utility. The internal and external use of hydriodate of potassium at intervals is also an excellent remedy, particularly when the secretions from the maxillary antrums are sanious, or greenish and offensive, and in every instance wherein the *thyroid glands are enlarged* or the sub-maxillary glands are indurated.

Soap and weak lie-washes, with daily changes of raiment and of bedding and place of boarding, regular sleep and avoidance of mental exertion, are of the first consequence in effecting radical or complete cures in all cases which have become constitutional. I have known cases to continue three, six and even nine years, with more or less severity at distant intervals, as different organic functions were successively deranged or were undergoing greater or less lesion. In the earlier stages this malady seems to have affinities to scorbutic affections of the worst type, while the cellular substance suffers as in scarlatina, but in the very protracted kind of cases I have been constantly reminded of the elephantiasis caste of disease lately exhibited in Brazil, Yucatan and Cuba, and had I a right to name it, I would call it *Cuban Fever.*

So long as the suppurative effusion can expend its main force upon the face, throat and exterior neck, remedial agencies must be cautiously employed, lest the diseased action be invited to translate itself upon interior and more vital parts. When typhoid symptoms occur, the patient is sometimes hurried off by a copious flow of coagulable blood from the intestinal canal, and in some instances by blood warm and red cast out by the ureters from the kidneys. It is in the typhous form that this disease acquires the name of *black tongue*, which is commonly the result of failing, by active depletion, to equalize the circulation and general powers of the system at an early stage of the disease. Sometimes the contagion descending through several successive patients from this malignant type of the affection, is very virulent and unmanageable, especially in exceedingly cold weather, but its force always abates in its progression.

As in the rooms of *milk-sick* patients, or typhus fever, smallpox, yellow fever, or bilious remittent fever, peculiar odors designate these diseases to the clinical observer, so also with the affection I am describing. If the room be close, with fire in it, besides the odor referred to, the olfactories are affected by a twinging or tickling sensation, exciting to sneeze, and the palate and throat becoming dry, an inclination to cough is soon irresistible. If one be seated near the patient, his breath, or the *extricated electric forces*, strike the cheeks or any exposed skin, so as to give the idea of soft nettles or flying cob-webs, or insects, touching such surfaces.

I have often seen strangers upon beds, whence fever patients had been removed, or lying upon the *same couch with one having the febrile stage*, who would immediately complain of excessive itching over the body, describing their sensations to be as if fleas, chinces or musquitoes were tormenting them. On one occasion I found the berth I had taken in a steamboat was too much impregnated for my continuance in it, and procuring another having new mattrasses, a stranger went into the former, who next morning, complaining severely of the inflamed state of his eyes, fauces and throat, alleged some fever patient must have left *contagious air* in the berth. This person, who was a preacher, within the two weeks I saw him, had the disease in the plenitude of its variations, but not very dangerously, and as the antrums of the cheeks and frontal bones were throwing out quantities of greenish fœtid pus, I suppose that his affection yet continues, though three years have elapsed; nor, at such a place, would it answer to announce the presence of a contagious disease. I found nearly all that boat's crew had the disease, and most of the passengers had it before leaving; and the steward of the boat, who had occupied the state room spoken of, I found would die in a few weeks under a chronic erysipelatous taint of the glandular system, the cellular disease already inducing an enlargement of the coats of the *arteria innominata,* and an extensive lymphatic occupation of the inferior air cells of both lungs, and from this latter cause his death occurred.

Every winter for years, on long stage lines, I have known stages which had blankets or woollen linings strongly infected: and even the bar-rooms of taverns were often so impregnated, that one directing attention to its detection would never err in deciding whether the room was infected or not.

In 1842, at New Orleans, I saw many hundreds of citizens and strangers having the acute or chronic stages of erysipelas upon them, many calling it mumps, or influenza, or other appellations, as the varying points and degrees of damage to different tissues presented symptoms resembling affections with which they were familiar. After this I had the disease, and treated it by active bleeding and other depletory measures, and experimentally felt the harassing and peculiar symptoms I had often witnessed for six or eight years among the numerous laborers at a manufacturing point, where yearly some fifteen hundred waggons received lading.

From 1833 to the present time I have observed that dyspeptic patients, and all those having any constitutional infirmity of the lungs, are peculiarly marked as subjects for death; indeed, so searching is the pursuit after persons having such disabilities, that in many places none are left alive, whether old, young or middle aged.

To the direct and indirect influences of this anomalous disease fully 16 per cent. of all the deaths in the Southern United States, for eight years past, has been owing; and in sections where the mortality has been 3½ per cent. yearly of the population, at least a half of one per cent. was a superaddition to the deaths that would occur without its presence.

Of the entire number of deaths immediately caused by the contagious Cuban fever, one third die from a fever of the lungs, and about one third are taken off by cerebral and nervoid affections, either in the primary or secondary stages of the disease, and the symptoms have often intimated to me that there must be a *softening process* in the cranial contents analogous to that sponge-like enlargement visible in the cellular tissue, arterial coats, and even in the denser cartilages.

I give facts as they appeared to my observation, and to thousands of good common inquirers, and probably to many practitioners of medicine, and I have been glad in the last year to find that in many very large districts the disease has totally disappeared, mainly, as I think, from deficiency of susceptible subjects.

During the mild attacks of cholera Asiatica, *called premonitory,* the will of the patient could not control muscular action with accuracy, so that the toes would strike the steps in ascending stairways, and the finger directed to the lip would reach the nose or chin, and then much free electricity surrounded the exterior cuticular surface. I inferred that so much free electric properties indicated a paucity of living galvanic agency in the body, or a constant and destructive waste, under which not very long healthy functions could be executed. Twenty-four hours before an attack of yellow fever a similar derangement of nervoid capacities happens, and yet for a time the thinking faculties are instinctively acute and active. The osseous, cellular and the nervoid constructions are pre-eminently the voltaic battery of the physiologic frame, and in the Cuban fever the bones express great disaffection. I was for twelve months in a cholera atmosphere, and could discover the difference in breathing upon an elevated point and in neighboring low places, especially after a rain in warm sunshine; to lift the hand an exertion was used as if raising a four pound weight; and whenever this was observed, within a few hours parties would be attacked who remained in such air, and it was remarkable that sometimes on opposite sides of a small stream this gas and pure air could be found. In cholera, nature's great effort was to cast out the half dead chyliferous contents whereby death often ensued immediately; and in erysipelas a primary indication is by hydragogues to remove similar fluids, whereby a healthful tonicity is maintained in the cerebral powers. I have often seen a gas lifted from deep salt pits, which floated as a cloud, would extinguish burning charcoal, and was impenetrable to light, but a red hot iron could sparkle in it, either by letting in oxygen or because it found chlorine qualities in this gas, which though floating could be lifted and poured out like water; and upon animals breathing it, effects were induced like cholera Asiatica.

Among fifty horses, when their drivers had erysipelas, all took the disease, and ten died with symptoms like the *Cuban fever* in human beings; and of 400 cattle, 100 died with disease of the same kind, nor could the affection be arrested until the animals *were dispersed* at new points. During this affection in cattle I observed several milk maids had the genuine vaccine disease upon their fingers, nor could I decide whether the dugs or the milkers first had the affection. This febrile disease in animals was called the Georgia distemper, and it was highly communicable among them.

When the Cuban fever (for so I may call it) first broke out, I observed it most among slave dealers, stock drovers and overseers of plantations, and I know the only reliable way to arrest the poison in slave quarters is to disperse the slaves and to burn or thoroughly cleanse their clothing and rooms. I advised a youth who had the fever in very active form, and was about to enter college, that he would in two weeks disperse a large share of the students; and in this period many left with the disease, nor, there, in two years, has the affection disappeared, though but two died; and those two had it in the form called black tongue, complicated with effects of measles.

To shave with razors used in shaving parties dying with the malignant type, will cause the face to be immediately inflamed, and the effluvia from coffins or any contact with such bodies I know to be highly dangerous. Other circumstances alike, the most malignity is indicated in cases wherein the thyroid *glands are considerably enlarged.* Seeing a case of this kind I advised great care, and leaving one hundred miles, I wrote an urgent letter about the danger of communication from that case, and after death the body being removed a day's journey was exposed, and did cause the early death of fifteen or twenty persons.

Whenever in athletic patients *loss of voice and hearing, with impaired vision and lethargic intellect,* are *concomitants,* night sweats, spasm of the bowels, hectic fever, hacking cough and most *surprising emaciation* hurry the patient to the jaws of death. In such cases the internal and external pelvic muscles losing their substance, the bones appear pointed and skinny, and the points of the shoulders bear forward as if they would desire to meet upon the sternum, and when these indications advance steadily *there is no hope of recovery.* From the state of the *intellectual portion of the brain* or of the *cerebellum,* or the *spinal cord,* as genuine hectic fever may supervene, and terminate life with as much certainty, as if the hectic symptoms depended on a destruction of the lung. When such cerebral affections exist, various grades of what I call insane ideas and animal propensities become active, and death most unexpectedly and suddenly gives relief.

During the last ten years I doubt whether great armies could in the United States have remained long at any one point without appalling destruction, and it may well be questioned whether the physiological and indefeasible constitution of man's socialism is not too violently infringed by late advances in the arts, particularly as applied to locomotion. I know very few public speakers or travellers have in the South or Western States escaped, and this class of men and many young females even yet have a chronic enlargement of the thyroid glands indicating some danger in the future. I cannot but believe the uses of the thyroid glands subserve a conservative purpose over the nervous power exerted *in breathing and in speaking,* analogous to the vicarious offices of the spleen in regard to the general circulation of blood. The amount of air taken into the stomach, and which in health is disposed of in the chyliferous process, becomes very troublesome in the Cuban fever, at all times when the digestive functions are much impaired, and hence dyspeptics are unhappy subjects of grippe fever.

The motions of the hands, as if expelling musquitoes from the face or neck, is often the first indication of infection, and if *hydragogue cathartics* be *at once used* for a week the disease will be generally removed, but bathing with cold water and the free use of acids must not be pretermitted. I have witnessed several strange translations of the disease, in the nature of critical results. In one case, when hectic symptoms indicated approaching dissolution from lung-disease, a transfer in a single night to one of the lower limbs presented, though an adult male, a genuine case of phlegmasia dolens, immediately relieving the lungs, and the limb, enveloped in acid-bran and other dressings, discharged from a quart to two quarts daily of purulent fluids. And in several instances I witnessed the purulent inflammation of the lung relieved by copious effusion of fluids exterior of the lung within the pleura, which becoming imperfectly confined by sac, at last discharged through intercostal orifices and recovery happened after excessive purulent discharges. In several instances I have known these critical depositions happen in the liver; and in two instances, when the collection was in the left side about the heart, this organ was gradually removed out of place toward the right side, where in one instance becoming attached, it may probably remain. Literary men will be in especial danger from *apoplectic* results, always indicated by apparent electric shocks of the brain, about the moment of dropping asleep, or when awake after intense and long thought upon any one subject, and also such parties on first rising to walk will feel as if tilting along with bright specks flitting in the vision and more or less strange sounds annoying the ear.

To remove such significant dangers it is necessary to place the mind and body in as tranquil a condition as possible, and because every grade of despondency is encountered, much tact and professional patience is often called into requisition. Every patient must be put on an invigorating diet, whilst undergoing alterant treatment by hydragogues and tonics, and the physician should acquire his implicit trust, which is easily attained under such circumstances. In the beginning, most cases may be cured, except those strongly predisposed to scrofulous consumption, and nine tenths of all the cases will recover without the aid of more than nursing skill; but if symptoms are at first severe or become suspicious, medical advice should be had very early.

In this letter I have treated the subject with more freedom than in my former letter, still with the design of inviting professional men to renewed inquiries into the causes of the increasing mortality from *pulmonic fever* and *apoplectic causes of death*. With high regard I am

Your ob't serv't,

Nashville, Tenn., July, 1845. A. McCall.

DISEASE OF THE UTERUS—ABORTION TWICE INDUCED.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—The following case has been the cause of intense anxiety to me, and cannot fail to interest your readers. For the first time in my professional life, I publish anonymously; not from any consciousness of impropriety in my practice, for of that my self-esteem and a conviction of the available nature of the little knowledge I possess (pray heaven it may increase) quite exonerate me. Motives of delicacy to others, prevent an association of my name with a case which, were it done, might compromise those whose friendship I esteem next to my own reputation. *You* will easily recognize your correspondent, and I should feel gratified if you would append a comment explanatory of your own views in the matter.

Mrs. ———, aged 35, of a nervo-sanguine temperament, and in good general health, the mother of four living children, requested my attendance during the summer of 1843. A few questions touching her then existing symptoms and previous history made the existence of pregnancy at the second month highly probable; in short, all the symptoms were present. On my announcing my conviction of that state, great disappointment was evident, although the lady had from previous experience arrived at the same conclusion. Her youngest child was 8 years of age, and on my remarking on that fact with an apparent design to elicit the cause of the interruption of gestation for so long a period, she gave me to understand it was designed, though nothing more than the ordinary precaution of married persons had been taken. The cause alleged for her unwillingness to bear children was, a progressive difficulty in her labors, until, as she expressed herself, the last was far worse than death could possibly be, and she more than intimated that she would anticipate her sufferings by suicide. From a thorough knowledge of her temperament and mental training, I gave full credit to her threat. Her family physician, a very eminent and worthy man, had assured her that the presentations were all natural, and that the difficulty attending the labors originated in the extreme "unwillingness of the womb to open." Her only reason for sending for me was, that she had urgently requested him to produce abortion in the last case, and he refused. She calculated firmly on my friendship to do it for her, and assured me solemnly that she would take her life if I or some one else did not comply. Although her own and her husband's importunity had not the least effect in causing me to assent to such a request, I thought it proper to make an investigation of the condition of the parts, with a view to elicit the cause of the difficulty in parturition; and I must say I was surprised that her physician had not yielded to her desire; the cervix was actually in a state of scirrhus, certainly more than twice its normal diameter, and studded with several projections from the size of a large pea to that of a cranberry, one at least being the latter size. I proposed a consultation with her physician, which she positively declined, as well as with any other—assuring me again most earnestly that I alone should do all that was to be done, or she would seek other aid, and that of an empirical character. Well knowing the tender mercies of such wretches, I hesitated, and finally concluded to do it. My reasoning was this. The afflux of blood for the production of the new being, or, to speak more learnedly, the physiological hypertrophy, must necessarily increase the disease; whilst the unavoidable tendency to abortion, and that, too, at a more dangerous period for flooding, together with the dreadful anticipation of protracted and inefficient pain, and the terrible threat of my patient, determined me.

The result proved the absolute inability of the uterus to expel its contents, for the os tincæ did not dilate, and we only knew of the cessation of gestation by the discharge and subsequent appearance of the menses, for we never saw the fœtus or its involucrum.

An earnest representation of the great danger of subsequent conception, and a promise of the adoption of the only method by which its impossibility could be ensured, has, alas, been followed, during the last month, by a renewed application for my interference. The disease has evidently much advanced—the cervix now being full two inches and a half in diameter, and the os tincæ quite scirrhous, easily admitting the end of the finger. I have again yielded to circumstances, and the case is terminating favorably, so far as the pregnancy is concerned.

I have related a combination of circumstances, which being quite novel to me, and having no precedent to govern my actions, has caused me great anxiety. It is offered for publication, though disagreeable to my feelings, from a sense of duty. I hope none of your readers may require such a precedent for their guidance in a similar emergency.

Sept. 2, 1845.

PERFORATION OF THE STOMACH.

By W. M. Carpenter, M.D., New Orleans.

The following case occurred in Louisiana, and the facts, with the stomach, its contents, and the liquid effused into the peritoneal cavity, were submitted to me for examination. A young lady, aged about 18 years, apparently in good health, was attacked a short time after dinner with excruciating pains in the abdomen, accompanied with severe retchings to vomit, but little, however, was thrown up by these efforts. The symptoms came on suddenly and increased in severity very rapidly. The pulse was variable, but small, the skin became cold and clammy, the abdomen swollen, tumid and tender to pressure; the face, at first flushed, soon became pale, and the features collapsed, and she died about 12 or 14 hours after the accession of the attack. From the severity and rapid course of the disease, but little doubt was entertained that she was poisoned. Some trivial circumstance led to suspicion being attached to a negro woman, an old servant of the family, who was consequently taken up and sent to prison to await her trial. Suspicions of a different nature were entertained by some, who suggested suicide by poisoning. The examination of the body at once and satisfactorily negatived this latter idea, by showing the non-existence of the motive to which the act was attributed; but was regarded as decidedly confirmatory of the suspicion of poisoning. No trace of disease was discovered except in the abdomen. The stomach was found nearly empty, and its contents effused into the peritoneal cavity, which was intensely inflamed. The stomach was discovered to be perforated anteriorly near the middle of the greater curvature, by a nearly circular aperture larger than a dollar, the margins of which were rather even, and of tolerably firm consistence, and having a bevelled form in consequence of the inner coats being removed to a greater extent than the peritoneal covering. No other corroded point was discoverable in any part of the organ, nor was the mucous tissue softened, and showed no traces of high inflammation. The margins of the aperture were darkened or rather blackened, and black striæ or marks were observable in other parts of the organ. The fluid taken from the stomach and peritoneal cavity, were examined and tested by means of the ammoniated sulphate of copper, but without the requisite precaution of eliminating from the suspected liquid the organic matters, which were mixed with it. A green color, regarded as Scheele's green, being obtained by this test, the presence of arsenic was considered as demonstrated.

When the stomach, its contents, &c., were brought to me, my first impression was that no corrosive could produce such a condition except strong sulphuric acid, and this was not likely to limit its action to any one point, as was the case here. When the organic substances were moved from the fluid, no coloration was produced by the copper test, and the other tests, as well as Marsh's apparatus, were used without detecting a trace of the presence of arsenic or any other poison. A portion of the stomach was likewise submitted to a careful examination, with a like want of success in discovering any poisonous substance.

The inevitable conclusions were: 1st, That the lady did not come to her death by poison, but by peritonitis, resulting from the escape of substances from the stomach into that cavity. 2d, That the aperture by which this escape of the contents of the stomach took place, was produced by the perforation of the coats of that organ by insidious disease, or by some unknown cause.

The prisoner, unquestionably innocent of the crime for which she was to be tried for her life, was released without a formal trial; for most of those concerned were satisfied that she was not guilty.

This case is doubly illustrative—first, of the necessity of judging cautiously from symptoms and *post-mortem* appearances—and secondly, of the importance of using every precaution before using chemical tests, for the detection of poisonous substances, in criminal cases. It is hardly necessary here to remark that the appearance of the color produced by the ammoniated sulphate of copper might have resulted from the presence of many organic acids or their salts, and consequently no reliance could be placed on such a result.—*New. Orleans Med. and Surg. Journal.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 17, 1845.

Mastodon Skeleton.—A better opportunity never presented, in Boston, to those who have any taste or love for studying comparative anatomy on a gigantic scale, than is now offered. Of all specimens in osteology, the skeleton of a mastodon is the most rare. Medical gentlemen and students should visit the great curiosity now on exhibition in Franklin street. Besides the complete and full-grown skeleton, there are in the same apartment the jaws and two skulls of mastodons of different ages and dimensions. Even the milk teeth of the infant monsters may be seen, peeping above the alveolar socket. Whatever belongs to the natural history of this magnificent race of extinct quadrupeds, is of the highest interest. Once they were the uncontrolled animal monarchs of this continent; but why, in the economy of Providence, the race was swept wholly out of existence, can never be explained, nor can the epoch of their universal extinction throughout the world be defined. That they once lived, is true—ages upon ages, it is believed, before the creation of man.

The mastodon now exhibiting was found about a year since in Warren County, New Jersey, five miles west of Schooly's Mountain Springs, near Hacket's Town, on the farm of Abraham Ayers. In the rear of Mr. Ayers's house there is a mountain, about 800 feet elevation above the valley at Hacket's Town. On the top of this mountain there was a small pond or basin, about 40 by 60 feet in diameter. In October last Mr. Ayers drained this pond for the sake of the rich earth it contained. About six feet under this rich sediment he struck on the mastodon bones, five of the skeletons of which were all lying together. One crumbled entirely to pieces as soon as exposed to the air, as also did parts of three others. The sixth and large skeleton, nearly perfect, now standing erect and exhibiting as above mentioned, was found about ten feet from the others, lying on its side in a natural position, evidently undisturbed since it died, as the back bone so nearly retained its natural curve and shape that Mr. Ayers ran a pole through it. This large one measures 22 feet long, and would stand between 11 and 12 feet high if the hall would admit of it.

Lee's Pills.—To have resided in New England and not know Lee's pills, argues oneself unknown. The time has been when they were a remedy for all human maladies in many of the States of the Union. Of late, like bank bills, they have been sadly counterfeited, so that it would puzzle the original proprietor to designate his own manufacture by the test of all his senses—though it is presumed he has too much sense to take one into his own stomach. Why should he? Pills were made to sell, in the language of trade; not to be swallowed by reasonable, reflecting people, who have any regard for their physical well-being. Another class of men have got possession of the stage since the epoch of Dr. Lee's greatest celebrity, who sell all sorts of strange boluses, utterly regardless of the prior claim of the great Connecticut pill Sachem, and they are therefore looked upon by the old Lee-pill takers, of a waning generation, with a becoming horror. Instead of being led away by the seductive advertisements of unprincipled dealers in patent medicines, the few remaining individuals of that respectable multitude who used to take the genuine Lee's pills on all occasions and under all aspects of the stars, still adhere to their first love, and still take them when sure they are the real—a point determined among the initiated by the old-fashioned tin box, enclosed in envelops enough to blanket a papoose in January. A correspondent furnishes the following recipe for constructing the true Lee's pills: "R. Aloes opt., ʒ xii.; scammony Alep., ʒ vj.; gamboge, ʒ iv.; calomel ppt., ʒ v.; jalap, ʒ iij.; sapo Castil., ʒ j.; syrup buckthorn, ʒ j.; mucilage gum Arabic, ʒ vij. The above being well incorporated, add the syrup and mucilage, and beat it in a mortar to a mass without adding any more syrup. Divide two drachms and a half into twenty-four pills. Dose from one to three or four pills."

Watson's Practice of Physic.—A second American edition, from the second London, revised, with additions, by that very accurate editor, Dr.

Condie, of Philadelphia, may be had in Boston at Mr. Mussey's, Cornhill. Our views are in no way changed in regard to the intrinsic value of this excellent series of lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine. In its typographical dress, this edition has the usual appearance of everything that emanates from the press of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, of Philadelphia; and in the next place, it sells for a reasonable price. The volume contains 1060 octavo pages.

Obstetric Medicine and Surgery.—Through Mr. Mussey, the publisher in Cornhill, a copy of a second Philadelphia edition of "The Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery, in reference to the process of Parturition, illustrated by one hundred and forty-eight figures, by Francis H. Ramsbotham, M.D., &c. &c., from the enlarged and revised London edition," has been received. So much is known of the capability of Dr. Ramsbotham in this department of medicine and surgery, and his writings have been in such constant demand, that it is gratifying that they are placed at the disposal of the American physician at a far more reasonable rate than they were in England or on the Continent. When a former comment was made on this same production, we resorted to every proper argument, based on the real merits of the volume, to make it extensively read by our readers. Any elaborate encomium, therefore, which we might feel it our duty to bestow on the present beautiful edition, would be essentially a repetition of a former notice. The great number of plates which are interspersed through the text, and their accuracy, give extraordinary interest to the whole. This, too, is from the thrifty establishment of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, and is truly a great octavo, containing 513 pages.

Hoblyn's Medical Dictionary.—Messrs. Ticknor & Co. have this convenient book, which has found friends wherever it circulates. After being made as complete as the author felt that he could make it, and yet keep it within a moderate price and portable too, Dr. Hays, of Philadelphia, has made additions, and therefore the American edition must surpass in value all that have preceded it. For a table dictionary of medical terms, its conciseness is a recommendation, if there were no other good qualities belonging to it. A vast collection of technicalities is put into a small space, with such a multitude of new names, as to make any of the modern professional publications, with its assistance, perfectly comprehensible to a beginner. Dr. Hays expresses himself thus:—"The object of the work is to present the student, in a concise form, an explanation of the terms used in medicine and the sciences connected with it, by giving their etymology and signification." No further explanation of the value or character of this plain, unpretending guide to study, is necessary. Published by Lea & Blanchard.

Half Yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences.—An endorsement in a pencil mark was written on the cover of the first No. of this work—"*The cheapest medical book ever published,*" which seems to be literally true. This No. is an octavo of 371 pages, compactly printed; and two of them—for there are to be two Nos. each year—will give a volume of 742 pages—*for only one dollar!* Subscriptions may be entered in Boston with Messrs. Ticknor & Co. and Saxton & Kelt, on Washington street. Of course the whole is a reprint, from the London edition, published by J. & H. G. Langley, New York. W. H. Ranking, M.D., is the originator and editor. As the title imports, these semi-annual abstracts contain, like Braithwaite's Retrospect, the cream of other medical publications. We used to think anybody could make a book with a pair of scissors; but years of observation convince us that it requires a rare order of talents, to say nothing of the judgment necessarily exercised in the business, to construct a good digest of the current medical science of the day.

Morrison's Pills in Servia.—Mr. Paton, a recent traveller in Servia, mentions the following curious fact regarding the extensive use of English quack medicines among the Turks. At Sewendiia, a large town, the major of the place, after swallowing countless boxes of Morrison's pills, died in the belief that he had not begun to take them soon enough. The consumption of these drugs at that time (1843) almost surpassed belief. There was scarcely a sickly or hypochondriac person, from the hills of Presburg to the iron gates, who had not taken large quantities of them. Being curious, says Mr. Paton, to know the cause of this excessive consumption, I asked for an explanation. "You must know," said an individual, "that the Anglo-mania is no where stronger than in this part of the world. Whatever comes from England, be it Congreve rockets or vegetable pills, must needs be perfect."

Waters of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa.—Mr. Rottermund, who is conducting a geological survey of the Canadas, has furnished the following analysis of the chemical composition of the two celebrated rivers, which run by Montreal and Quebec.

"The waters of the St. Lawrence which flow past Montreal, are of two kinds: the one, coasting along the right side of the river, appertains to the Ottawa; the other, flowing on the left side, comes from the Upper Lakes. These run together for several leagues without intermingling, a fact demonstrable from the preservation of their respective colors. The St. Lawrence water possesses a fine blue color, that of the Ottawa approaches to a brown. Both kinds are very pure, differing from distilled water only by .002 or .003; for by taking the specific gravity of distilled water as unity, the specific gravity of the St. Lawrence water is 1.0036; that of the Ottawa water, 1.0024; their temperature being 66 deg. Fahr. while that of the air was 82 deg. Taking into consideration the specific gravity of the two waters, we can understand why they do not easily intermingle; this arises not only from a difference in the amount of saline matter dissolved, but also a difference in its nature; both contain chlorides, sulphates and carbonates, with bases of lime and magnesia, but the St. Lawrence water moreover holds in solution carbonate of lime, and, in consequence, is not so well adapted for culinary purposes, as this salt deposits itself readily when fluids containing it are heated, and their bulk diminished by evaporation. Both contain equal quantities of atmospheric air in solution, to the amount of 446 per cent. From a litre (57 cubic inches, about a quart) which I evaporated to dryness, I obtained so small a quantity from the Ottawa water, that I found it difficult to weigh it with perfect precision, but I estimated it at 1.5 grains; while I obtained from the same quantity of the St. Lawrence 2.87 grains of solid residue. The quantitative analysis from 57 cubic inches of each gave me as follows:—

	St. Lawrence.	Ottawa.
Sulphate Magnesia	0.62 grs.	0.69
Chloride of Calcium	0.38 "	0.60
Carbonate of Magnesia	0.27 "	1.07
Carbonate of Lime	—	0.017
Silicia	0.31 "	0.50
	1.58	2.877

"Confessions of a Magnetiser Exposed."—It would be a nice question to decide which was the deepest in the mire, the repentant operator who wrote the Confessions, or Mr. La Roy Sunderland, who has exposed the hoof of one of his own feet in showing up the iniquity of a brother chip. To be perfectly satisfied with one's self, in the full belief that the world is astonished, must be an exceedingly comfortable feeling to a man of vanity. Hear the great exposer. "The new theory of the mind, or what I believe to be such, I published in my work before alluded to, some three years ago. It was, I believe, the first ever issued in the English language, in which an attempt was made to show the falsity of the opinions hitherto prevalent, in relation to the agency of a fluid in the production of the results peculiar to a state of induced somnambulism." Strange the earth has not been shaken! Where is Dr. Buchanan, the neuralgic philosopher, who made the nervous fluid run like a mill race, in solving all phenomena of mind or body.

The Exposition, from beginning to end, is a bag of wind; yet it may assist the Rev. La Roy Sunderland, we opine, to get a penny extra, while it serves as a kind of apology for thrusting before a worn-out public, the thread-bare topic of pathetism—a science exclusively the proper of Mr. S., the discoverer.

New Orleans Medical Journals.—The projected Louisiana Medical and Surgical Journal, by Drs. Carpenter and Harrison, of New Orleans, which we noticed some weeks since, has been united with the New Orleans Medical Journal—that is, these two gentlemen are hereafter to be associated as editors, with Drs. Fenner and Hester, in the management of the Journal which has been published in that city for the last year or two, carrying with them whatever of influence and support they had collected for the new undertaking. This appears to us a wise movement, and the Journal, thus aided, cannot fail to maintain the good reputation which it has already won.

New Obstetrical Forceps.—TO THE EDITOR. DEAR SIR,—In constructing the obstetrical forceps which you will receive from Mr. Burnett, I endeavored to obviate, by the peculiarity of a sliding joint, the necessity of resorting to the extreme force usually employed in removing the fœtal head, by instruments, when impacted in either strait. In adjusting the instruments the blades are to be separated and introduced singly after the old method; but you will observe that it is not necessary to place the clam of each over the same portion of the head in order to close the joints, as they slide upon the shafts and can be united, although the clams are placed over different portions, and as it often occurs that a single blade only can be introduced and adjusted in a perfect manner. The superiority of this will be apparent from the fact that the clam of one blade can be applied, allowing the base to reach below the margins of the occipital and temporal bones, as the case may require, and the other may be placed over the ridge of the parietal without lessening the effective power of the forceps; and by the above arrangement, and the application of proper extractive power, the diameter of the head may be easily made to adapt itself to that of the passage, without the exertion usually required on the part of the accoucheur. Yours respectfully, E. R. Smilie.

Boston, Sept. 6th, 1845.

Sickness in Armies.—Vaidy, in his article "Hygiene Militaire," in the "Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales," states that, under the most favorable circumstances, an army will furnish about 5 per cent. of sick. During a campaign, not less than 10 per cent. must be calculated on, and in the event of reverses or other untoward circumstances, this becomes immensely increased.

Medical Miscellany.—A case of death in a farmer is recorded in London, caused by guano dust in his throat, which produced hemorrhage, vomiting, &c.—It is asserted that Hahnemann once said, "I give medicine but very seldom, although I always prescribe small powders! I do this for the sake of keeping up in the patient's mind the firm belief that each powder contains a particular dose of some medicine"!—Francis Roach died on the 9th, near Edwardsville, Illinois, at the age of 107.—A large medical class has assembled at Dartmouth College, we understand. —Dr. A. J. Prince, of Newburgh, N. Y., is setting up the skeleton of the mastodon recently found in that town.—On the first of May, there were in the House of Industry, South Boston, 84 boys between the ages of 4 and 10, but only 11 girls. In the institution, there were 341 males and only 196 females. This shows that there is a greater demand for female than male laborers.—At Attakapas, La., 13 persons in one family recently died of congestive fever.—The last overland mail brings intelligence of the cholera at Lahore and neighborhood, in the East Indies, where deaths averaged from 500 to 700 a-day. It was announced that between 20 and 30,000 had already died. It had also made its appearance at Terazepore.

Married,—At Northampton, Mass., Caleb Green, M.D., of Homer, N. Y., to Miss Roxana R. Parsons.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending Sept. 13, 52.—Males, 28; Females, 24. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 2—disease of the bowels, 15—disease of the brain, 4—apoplexy, 2—old age, 1—infantile, 7—hooping cough, 2—marasmus, 2—suffocation, 2—typhus fever, 4—hemorrhage, 1—croup, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—burn, 1—lung fever, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—cholera infantum, 9—palsy, 1.

Under 5 years, 38—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 60 years, 8—over 60 years, 3.

Rheumatism.—Dr. Dunglison, in a late Clinical Lecture at the Philadelphia Hospital, remarked, that at present there seemed to be a peculiar condition of the atmosphere—a sort of *constitutio aeris*—to use the language of Sydenham—which is inappreciable—favorable to rheumatic affections. There appears, too, to be a tendency to certain articulations rather than to others, as in nearly every case the shoulder-joint is affected. He reminded the class that he considered rheumatism to be largely neuropathic, and certainly not identical with ordinary acute inflammation.

In the case reported some weeks since, a perfect cure was effected by means of sulphate of quinia. This agent has proved no less successful in numerous other cases that have since occurred in the hospital. In the vast majority, it was sufficient of itself to effect the cure, but in a few, from the unusual degree of vascular excitement, the application of cups to the spine was advisable. This situation for topical bleeding was selected, not from a supposition that the medulla spinalis is diseased in such cases, but from its convenience, and its being a most sensitive surface. Sometimes it becomes necessary to give large doses of opium to allay the pain and excitement. This agent, being a powerful narcotic and sedative, exerts its influence—the professor thinks—much in the same manner as quinia, which, in large doses, is markedly narcotic and sedative. It will be found exceedingly beneficial in many cases of acute rheumatism, and is highly recommended, as a most powerful remedy in the disease, by Dr. Christison. The professor here desired the class not to be misled by the opinion that opium is always a stimulant. This belief has been long held by many, but is unquestionably erroneous. In small doses it is certainly a stimulant, but in large ones its sedative action is manifested in a marked manner. Where sedation is desired, it should never be given in less than 2½ or 3 grain doses. The lecturer thinks that sulphate of quinia may be given fearlessly in every case. He has never witnessed any injurious effects from its employment, and, as before observed, he regards it in full doses a potent sedative. It has been prescribed in every stage of intermittent, without producing any signs of a stimulating agency. Even the pulverized cinchona has been employed, without any injurious effects, in the hot stage of that fever; although, from its containing much indigestible matter, as woody fibre, it might have been inferred that it would prove exciting, and consequently deleterious. Before administering the sulphate of quinia in these cases, it may be well to pave the way for its action by some mild cathartic, although this is not indispensable. The dose of the sulphate, which may be 18 or 20 grains daily, may be gradually increased, care being taken to suspend it on the supervention of any symptoms indicative of its influence on the nervous system. When the excitement in acute rheumatism is very high, it will be proper to resort to depletion; but this should not be carried too far. The plan of treating rheumatic affections by the sulphate of quinia the professor has found extremely successful, both in private and public practice.—*Med. Examiner.*

Salacine.—Dr. Fenner, of New Orleans, whose experiments with this article are noticed some time since, says in the last No. of the New Orleans Journal—" I have now tried this remedy in twenty-two cases, but have desisted for the present, on account of the expense of the article in the large doses requisite. I shall report the result of my observations at a future time."